By way of expressing our sorrow and showing our respect to the departed soul, I request hon. Members to stand in their places in silence for two minutes.

(The House stood in silence for two minutes.)

MR. SPEAKER : As a mark of respect to the deceased I now adjourn the House for thirty minutes and we shall re-assemble at 11-45 of the clock.

The House then adjourned.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

11-45 a.m. MR. SPEAKER : With the leave of the House, the question hour will be restricted to 12-15 p.m.

Death of a person under Police custody in Tambaram

* 3118 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Sadanandam died while in Police custody at Tambaram in Chingleput district in June 1955;

(*b*) the circumstances under which the death took place; and

(*c*) whether any enquiry was conducted, and if so, the findings thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) & (*b*) It is not true to say that Sadanandam died while he was under Police custody at Tambaram. On the afternoon of 6th June 1955, this person was brought to the Police station at Tambaram for interrogation. As it was found that he was seriously ill, he was taken from the Police station to the General Hospital, Madras, for treatment, where he died during the early hours of 7th June 1955.

(*c*) Yes, an inquiry was held by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Chingleput. His report goes to show that Sadanandam died as a result of poisoning by nitrate and that the Police were not responsible for his death.

(Questions Nos. 3119 and 3120 taken together.)

Draft rules under the Plantation Labour Act, 1951

* 3119 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 1739 on 31st March 1955 when the State Government would finalise the draft rules proposed to be made under section 43 (1) of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The rules under section 43 (1) of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, have been finalized and published at pages 1 to 30 of Rules Supplement to Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th January 1956.

* 3120 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 1739 given on 31st March 1955 whether the rules under the Plantations Labour Act have been finalized?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 3119 by Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, may I know whether the wages of these labourers have been regulated in the past by a statute of the Government or whether the Government propose to regulate the wages on the basis of a Minimum Wages Ordinance prevalent in other tea plantations?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The question of wages is before a Special Tribunal which is considering it.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : May I know what steps have been taken by the Government to implement the rules framed under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government propose to appoint some additional special staff to attend to the implementation of the rules.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : சர்க்கார் பிரசுரித்திருக்கும் இந்தத் தோட்டத் தொழிலாளர்களின் விதிகள் சர்க்காரால் நடத்தப்படும் சின்கோனா பிளான்டேஷனில் வேலை செய்யும் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குப் பொருந்துமா? அல்லது அவர்களுக்கு விதிவிலக்கு அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : These rules will apply to all plantations including Cinchona which is run by Government.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, am I to take it that there is no minimum wage rate in Madras and that the function of the Tribunal is in the form of an *ad hoc* function?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the Tribunal will take up the question whenever there are disputes.

Tellicherry Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Society

* 3121 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP (on behalf of Dr. K. B. Menon) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Tellicherry Producers'*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society has applied for conversion into a Rural Bank ; and